New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee January 2016

SWCD 2015 Reporting - All Districts should have received via email, the Annual Report, Treasurers Report and Part A, B and C Reporting Documents for 2015. All reports must be received in Albany by **February 15, 2016.** Reports that are not received by the due date will not be considered timely and will add significant delays to State reimbursements, thereby limiting the State's capacity to make prompt payments. All reports must be submitted electronically, except the Claim for Payment form for State Reimbursement. All electronic submissions should be emailed to Jennifer Clifford, (iennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov). Reports are also posted on SharePoint ienaide to Jennifer Clifford @agriculture.ny.gov). Reports are also posted on SharePoint ienaide to Jennifer Clifford @agriculture.ny.gov). Reports are also posted on SharePoint https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/State%20Aid%20to%20Districts.aspx

- 1. Part A The Part A Eligible Expenditures Report must be submitted via email by the due date. Also, please send a signed copy of the Claim for Payment to: NYS SWCC, Attn: Jennifer Clifford, 10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235
- 2. Part B The Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance Report should be submitted via email by the due date.
- 3. Part C The 2015 Performance Measure Evaluation Summary Report should be submitted via email by the due date. Also, Districts who have been granted special requests for performance measure items must also email copies of the approved special request form(s).
- 4. Hourly Rates for Grant Work The hourly Rates for grant work excel file should also be completed and submitted via email by the due date.
- 5. 2015 Annual Report Once complete, please submit the annual report by clicking on the "Submit by Email" button at the upper left-hand corner of the report.
- 6. 2015 Treasurers Report The Treasurers Report should be completed and submitted via email by the due date to the State Committee and OSC. Guidance documents are available on SharePoint.

AgNPS Program

Round 22 – The AGNPS Round 22 RFP was recently approved by the SWCC at their December 2015 meeting in Utica, NY. The State will be approving the release of the Round 22 RFP sometime after the New Year with a due date in early April 2016. The RFP will only be advertised on the Grants Gateway. The RFP and other application materials will be linked through the Department of Agriculture and Markets website and the NYS SWCC SharePoint Site. Applications will be submitted through SharePoint. If you have not already accessed SharePoint or set up your account please do so as soon as possible.

Overdue Close-outs: Some Districts began receiving letters this week about overdue close-outs on older AGNPS Grants. The SWCC and Ag and Markets are sending reminders that all AGNPS grants are required to be closed-out within 60 days of the end of contract. Most of the paperwork required for the close-out should be completed throughout the life of the contract (procurement forms, farm expenditure summaries, etc.). Having these forms filled out and signed by the landowner as each task is completed will reduce a significant amount of time during close out. Reminders are also being sent out for grants that may have upcoming end dates about the need to close-out these active grants in a timely manner. Please contact your local AEA for assistance and or to schedule a close-out.

AGNPS Tip of the Month #1: When reviewing quotes from contractors with the Landowner, take a few extra minutes to enter them into the Procurement Form. While the Landowner is still in the office, have them sign and date the appropriate section of the form.

Next SWCC Meeting – The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at 10AM on Tuesday, January 19th, 2016. The meeting will take place at the NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets office located in Albany, NY. A meeting agenda will be sent out shortly. Also, a videoconference option will be available for this meeting with specific information and satellite locations identified on the upcoming agenda.

Municipal Sub-Committee Meeting – The next meeting of the SWCC Municipal Sub-Committee is scheduled to convene at 10AM on Wednesday, January 13th, 2016. The meeting will take place at the NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets office located in Albany, NY. A meeting agenda and call-in information will be sent out shortly.

NYS CAFO Permit Public Comment Period - Two general permits that clearly describe the technical programs to reduce the potential for water pollution from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) have been released by NYSDEC and are available for public review and comment through February 7th, 2016. These draft CAFO general permits will replace the existing permits scheduled to expire in June 2016. DEC's draft General Permits for CAFOs are available at DEC's website. Comments must be submitted in writing no later than February 7, 2016 to: Douglas Ashline, NYS DEC - Division of Water, 625 Broadway, 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-3505, E-mail: douglas.ashline@dec.ny.us

Upcoming Events

Sustain our Great Lakes Funding Opportunity Webinar: On January 13th, Sustain Our Great Lakes will begin to solicit applications for funding to restore and enhance habitat in the Great Lakes basin. A webinar will also be held on January 13th to inform applicants on the funding opportunity and process. The RFP will be available at www.sustainourgreatlakes.org. The webinar will begin at 11 AM. Participants can register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7075001454201702402. SWCDs interested in applying for this funding opportunity are encouraged to discuss proposed projects in advance of applying with DEC regional natural resources or Great Lakes program staff as appropriate.

2016 Water Quality Symposium - The 2016 Water Quality Symposium / NYS CDEA Annual Training Session will convene at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Syracuse, NY during March 15th – 18th, 2016. Registration forms will be accepted electronically for 2016 and are due no later than February 17, 2016. The 2016 WQS Registration Packet can be found on the NYS CDEA Website. If you have questions about your registration, please contact Kristin White @ kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net or by calling (315) 568-4366 – ext. 100. If you have general questions about the courses and hotel, please contact Jordan Clements @ jclements0612@gmail.com or by calling (607)547-8337 ext. 4.

Funding Opportunities

DEC Announces Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Grant Program: \$2 million in grants are available to organizations for projects to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in New York State's waterways. The New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is providing the \$2 million for eligible projects. Grant amounts will range from a minimum of \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000. A 25-percent match is required. For a full list of eligible and ineligible forms of match, please view the Request for Application (RFA) at HERE. The highest scoring projects will have a statewide or regional focus rather than a local focus, involve multiple partners and stakeholders.

NOAA's Great Lakes Regional Habitat Restoration Partnerships: NOAA's Restoration Center has released a federal funding opportunity (FFO) for habitat restoration in Great Lakes Areas of Concern. The FFO is available at http://www.grants.gov/, funding number NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2016-2004742. The closing date is February 2, 2016. Through this solicitation, NOAA seeks to openly compete funding available for multi-year Great Lakes Regional Habitat Restoration Partnerships. Partnerships will result in implementation of a wide-range of individual habitat restoration projects focused in U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern with funds provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. NOAA anticipates up to \$5 million may be available to establish habitat restoration partnerships in 2016, with annual funding anticipated to maintain them for up to three years. Typical Partnership awards are expected to range from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 per year. Funding will support both engineering and design projects and on the ground implementation projects.